



LEBANON ENERGY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Council Chambers, City Hall

December 15th, 2022

4:00 PM

FINAL

MEMBERS PRESENT*: Greg Ames (Chair), Jon Chaffee (Vice-Chair), Clifton Below (Council Representative), Woody Rothe (remote), Sherry Boschert (remote)

MEMBERS ABSENT: Meghan Butts (alternate), Gene Homicki (alternate), Devin Wilkie (Council alternate)

STAFF PRESENT: Tad Montgomery

GUESTS PRESENT: none

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting called to order by Greg Ames at 4:07 PM.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

Sherry Boschert moved to accept the November 2022 LEAC meeting minutes; Clifton Below seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously without change.

OLD BUSINESS:

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Clifton Below said that there is a PUC docket open on SB321 pilot implementation. The utilities and CPCNH have asked the PUC to turn that into an adjudicated proceeding in order that there be a legally binding determination with regard to the jurisdictional issues surrounding the pilot projects enabled by SB321. Part of this will hopefully allow these pilot projects to sell power at intra-state wholesale rates to Community Power projects and get credit for avoided transmission and distribution costs.

CITY SOLAR

Clifton Below gave a recap of a meeting earlier in the day concerning the landfill garage solar array between City DPW staff, ReVision Energy and Wishcamper. There is no quick, easy, cheap way to get that array back up and producing energy due to its interrelationship with the landfill gas project and power contribution to the 39L2 electric circuit. Staff continue to work with the two companies, Liberty Utilities, and National Grid to resolve the situation. Staff has said that the Phase 3 solar project will get under way when this landfill garage solar issue has been resolved.

* **QUORUM NOTE:** When LEAC has five members, three need to be physically present to create a quorum.

RENTAL HOUSING DECARBONIZATION/WEATHERIZATION PILOT

Jon Chaffee gave an update on this project, their discussions with landlords, and possible funding sources. They are in contact with Liberty Utilities and Resilient Buildings Group which are jointly doing weatherization of multi-family housing units. Mr. Chaffee said that LU & RBG are looking for eligible projects and have a budget to do this work. Jon Chaffee & Woody Rothe’s task is to find landlords who have 50% or more of tenants who are income qualified to receive weatherization assistance and are willing to have this work done on their properties.

COMMUNITY POWER UPDATE

Asst. Mayor Below gave an update on the Community Power Coalition of NH (CPCNH) December 15th Board of Directors’ meeting. He said that CPCNH is close to being ‘over the hump’ to make their early spring launch happen, as planned. Lebanon will be one of 11 or 12 ‘first wave’ municipalities to deliver power to their residents through community aggregation. CPCNH has applied for the domain name CommunityPowerNH.gov with affiliates having url’s such as Lebanon.CommunityPowerNH.gov. He said that CPCNH is in the process of developing different rate structures with different levels of renewable energy (RE) in their portfolios:

• Granite Basic – the RE level mandated by the NH Renewable Portfolio Standard (~23.4% in 2023)	• Clean 50 – 50% RE
• Granite Plus – RPS + ~10% additional RE	• Clean 100 – 100% RE

There will be different rates offered for small customers and large customers.

Mr. Below said that CPCNH had just approved a new Energy Portfolio Risk Management Rates and Reserves Policy which will guide them in navigating risk management and rate structures. Ascend Analytics presented their technical assessment and scenario analysis for CPCNH launch and first five years of operation, and said that CPCNH is in as good a launch position as they have ever seen with a municipal aggregation start-up. They use stochastic modeling to determine this and did 100 modeling runs. The worst-case scenario showed CPCNH as only having \$80 million in reserves after five years, and no scenario where CPCNH cannot offer lower rates than utility default service. CPCNH will have its rates known in early February, and communities will need to commit by late January in order to participate in the 1st wave. Mr. Below said that one thing that was discovered during Ascend Analytics’ scenario modeling is that there is tremendous value to be had in the development of up to 5 MW power projects both in savings and rate stability. CPCNH also adopted at their 12/15 meeting a Data Security and Privacy Policy which will protect electric customers’ data. This policy will be incorporated into CPCNH’s other contracts and ensure that NH PUC guidelines and rules pertaining to these issues are met.

Mr. Below said that there is a CPCNH meeting for rep.’s from the Wave 1 communities who will handle press and media relations next Monday night, 12/19, 5:30-7 PM. He asked if someone from LEAC could step up to attend this meeting and serve in this role as LCP spokesperson. Sherry Boschert volunteered to attend the training. Greg Ames said that it would also be good for Tad Montgomery to attend the

meeting and serve in this role, too, since he is the point person for city energy issues, and other LEAC members agreed. Tad Montgomery said that he would bring this request to DPW Management.

Timeline: The CPCNH Policy Package and Cost Sharing Agreement will be discussed at a Board meeting on 12/19/22 after which these agreements will need to be ratified by member municipalities. If approved by CPCNH Mr. Below said that he will then bring the Policy Proposal and Cost Sharing Agreement to the City Council on January 4th for their deliberation. On Th., Jan. 5th there is a public engagement workshop to help Wave 1 communities achieve a successful launch. Tuesday, Jan. 10th is the next CPCNH Member Operations and Engagement Committee meeting. Mr. Below expects that the formal mailing to Lebanon ratepayers announcing LCP to be sent around the 1st of March.

Jon Chaffee mentioned that Sustainable Lebanon is considering creating a campaign to encourage Lebanon ratepayers to opt up to the highest possible RE rate. Calpine and CENH will be helping to develop the start-up publicity campaign state-wide, including the design of the mailing. Tad Montgomery said that he would approach DPW Management about the possibility of including something in the City's water or sewer bills. Mr. Below said that a PR firm may be hired to assist with this and possibly pay for advertising, whether it is print or social media.

MASTER PLAN UPDATE, STRATEGIC PLAN

Tad Montgomery said that he had nothing to report.

ELECTRIC VEHICLES & EV SUBCOMMITTEE

Sherry Boschert mentioned that Starbucks is planning a drive-through shop at Centerra and in the Western US has incorporated DC fast chargers into their shops. She also announced that Advanced Transit is taking delivery of their new electric busses soon, and she has offered to help publicize this benchmark.

Letter to City Council re Proposed EV Infrastructure Development Regulation – Ms. Boschert led a discussion around a letter to the City Council that she has drafted on behalf of LEAC to correct information that was given at a recent Planning Board meeting.

MOTION made by Jon Chaffee, seconded by Greg Ames:

That LEAC sign the letter to the City Council regarding the proposed EV Development Amendment that has been written by Sherry Boschert, with input from LEAC, that encourages the Council to approve the EV Zoning Amendment. Approved: 5:0.

Clifton Below said that he anticipates this will be discussed at the Jan. 18th Council meeting.

EV Charging RFP (Lebanon/Hanover/Hartford) – Ms. Boschert told LEAC that she has been working with Austin Ford of the UVLSRPC on the development of an online map that the three towns will be able to use to collect input on where residents would like to see public EV chargers installed. She asked LEAC members to look at the map and provide input. There will be a contact link on the map for users to alert us as to where new EVSE has been installed, too, and there was a discussion as to where that link would be directed.

NEW BUSINESS & OTHER NEWS:

SNAPP: Jon Chaffee gave an update on the Sustainable Nature App phone app that Sustainable Lebanon has been piloting in town. He reported that there were 51 participants in the pilot who collectively took roughly 3,000 actions that had a cumulative impact of a nine metric ton reduction in greenhouse gas reductions.

ENERGY & FACILITY MANAGER'S REPORT

- Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality -- Tad Montgomery said that City staff have been asked to rank the five grant proposals that were submitted to the state last month. He asked LEAC members to look over the four that were included in the November LEAC meeting packet and get him feedback on how they should be ranked. The 5th is a project to extend the Mascoma Greenway further into West Lebanon that Paul Coats submitted. LEAC's recommendations will be brought back to City staff to help inform their decisions. Mr. Montgomery suggested that UVLSRPC staff also be solicited for feedback, if they are able, because they are involved in their own evaluations of these CMAQ projects.
- LEAC Meeting Locations Moved – Tad Montgomery announced that the Council Chambers would be undergoing further renovation in Jan./Feb. and meetings will be moved. See below in red.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Master Plan – continued discussion
- Strategic Plan – continued discussion
- LEAC work priorities for 2023
- REC discussion continued
- A new Chair for LEAC
- April Energy Fair with Hartford
- Solarize Lebanon/Hartford

UPCOMING EVENTS

- January 12th, 2023: Sherry Boschert mentioned a training on EV charger infrastructure development that she has been discussing with Everett Hammond and recommending that someone from the City attend. There is a registration cost.
- January 13th: The NH Network is sponsoring a seminar on Transactive Energy. Link To [Flyer](#), [TRANSACTIONAL ENERGY](#)
- April, 2023: Jon Chaffee mentioned that Hartford, VT has approached LEAC to see if the two towns would like to do a joint energy fair, possibly at the LISTEN kitchen in WRJ.

NEXT MEETINGS

The next LEAC EV Subcommittee meeting is Thursday, January 12th, City Council Chambers, 3 PM.

The next regular LEAC meeting is Thursday, January 19th at 4 PM, **NOTE: this meeting has been moved to the Kilton Library.**

The February LEAC EV Subcommittee meeting is Thursday, February 9th, 3 PM. **NOTE: this meeting has been moved to the Damren Room of the Lebanon Library.**

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Jon Chaffee to adjourn the meeting at 6:53 PM. The motion was seconded by Sherry Boschert and was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Tad Montgomery